

**§ 32.4 Opening of wildlife refuge areas to fishing.**

Wildlife refuge areas may be opened to sport fishing only after a determination is made that this activity is compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established. In addition, the sport fishing program must be consistent with principles of sound fishery management and otherwise be in the public interest. The opening or closing of wildlife refuge areas to fishing is subject to the rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*). Lands acquired as “waterfowl production areas” are open to sport fishing subject to the provisions of State laws and regulations and the pertinent provisions of parts 25 through 31 of this subchapter: *Provided*, that fishing or entry on all or any part of individual areas may be temporarily suspended by posting upon occasions of unusual or critical conditions of, or affecting, land, water, vegetation or fish and wildlife populations.

**§ 32.5 What are the requirements for sportfishing on areas of the National Wildlife Refuge System?**

The following provisions shall apply to each person while engaged in public sport fishing on a wildlife refuge area:

- (a) Each person shall secure and possess the required State license.
- (b) Each person shall comply with the applicable provisions of Federal law and regulation including this subchapter.
- (c) Each person shall comply with the applicable provisions of the laws and regulations of the State wherein any area is located unless the same are further restricted by Federal law or regulation.
- (d) Each person shall comply with the terms and conditions authorizing access and use of the wildlife refuge area.
- (e) Each person must comply with the provisions of any refuge-specific regulation governing fishing on the wildlife refuge area. Regulations, special conditions, and maps of the fishing areas for a particular wildlife refuge are available at that area’s headquarters. In addition, refuge-specific

sport fishing regulations appear in §§ 32.20 through 32.72.

[58 FR 5064, Jan. 19, 1993, as amended at 67 FR 58943, Sept. 18, 2002]

**§ 32.6 What are the procedures for publication of refuge-specific sport fishing regulations?**

(a) Refuge-specific fishing regulations are issued only at the time of or after the opening of a wildlife refuge area to sport fishing.

(b) Refuge-specific fishing regulations may contain the following items:

- (1) Fish species that may be taken;
- (2) Seasons;
- (3) Creel limits;
- (4) Methods of fishing;
- (5) Description of areas open to fishing; or
- (6) Other provisions as required.

(c) Refuge-specific fishing regulations will not liberalize existing State laws or regulations.

(d) Refuge-specific fishing regulations are subject to change and the public is invited to submit suggestions and comments for consideration at any time.

(e) We initially publish refuge-specific sport fishing regulations in the daily issue of the FEDERAL REGISTER, and subsequently they appear in §§ 32.20 through 32.72.

(f) Refuge-specific fishing regulations may be amended as needed when unpredictable changes occur in fish and wildlife populations, habitat conditions or in other factors affecting a refuge’s fish and wildlife resources.

[58 FR 5064, Jan. 19, 1993, as amended at 67 FR 58943, Sept. 18, 2002]

**§ 32.7 What refuge units are open to hunting and/or sport fishing?**

Refuge units open to hunting and/or sport fishing in accordance with the provisions of subpart A of this part and §§ 32.20–32.72, inclusive, are as follows:

**ALABAMA**

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge  
 Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge  
 Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge  
 Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge  
 Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge  
 Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge  
 Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge  
 Sauta Cave National Wildlife Refuge  
 Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge